

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD PLAN WINS GREAT VICTORY IN CITY COUNCIL

Ordinance as Adopted by
Aldermen on Tuesday
Night Concurred In
by Lower Branch.

**MAYOR IS READY
TO SIGN NEW LAW
THIS AFTERNOON**

Health, Police and Fire Departments Eliminated, Original Report of Special Committee Adopted After Amendments Meant to Crush It Were Voted Down—Vote Stood 23 to 18, but Eight Members Quickly Changed, Official Record Reading 30 to 10—Pollock Regards It as Greatest Reform in Municipal Affairs in Fifty Years. Business People Work Genuinely for New and Better System.

By a vote of 22 to 18, the Common Council last night concurred in the joint resolution providing for an administrative board to manage the business affairs of the city exactly as drafted by the special committee and as adopted by the Board of Aldermen. Mayor D. C. Richardson announced his hearty approval of the reform proposed and his intention of signing the joint resolution as soon as it can be engrossed.

The final vote on concurrence in the Board amendments, which eliminated the Fire, Police and Health Departments, and brought the plan back to what was at first recommended, was as follows:

AYES—Messrs. Blake, Bonchen, Bowman, Bradley, Burke, Butler, Ferguson, Fuller, Hobson, Lynch, Miller, Pinner, Pollard, Pollock, Powell, Powers, John T.; Ratcliffe, Reade, Richards, Richardson, Selph, Vonderlicke—22.

NOES—Messrs. Watkins, Brown, Cenne, Gill, Haddon, Hirschberg, Huber, Jones, Lumden, Mills, Powers, Rogers, Seaton, Sullivan, Umlauf, Wiltshire, Workman, Peters—18.

Many Quickly Change.
Before the vote of 22 to 18 could be announced, Messrs. Peters, Hirschberg, Bakken, Seaton, Rogers, Wiltshire, Lumaden, Huber and Jones changed from no to aye, and the final vote was announced 30 to 10. Others explained that they voted not to concur, not that they were opposed to an administrative board, but preferred the Hirschberg substitute, including the Fire

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"I regard this as the greatest action of the City Council has taken in my sixteen years of service—probably the best single event that has happened for the city of Richmond in fifty

Great Crowd at Meeting.—Notwithstanding the stormy night, the Council chamber was packed with business men and those interested in good government long before the meeting was called to order. Every member of the board took his seat, and the debate of the night was of a high order, several of the speeches being classed as among the best made in the Council chamber in months.

Last week the Common Council, in lieu of the resolutions recommended by the special committee, adopted a substitute offered by Mr. Hirschberg. Identical in every feature save that it included under the administrative boards the Fire, Police and Health Departments, and the separate boards. The Board of Aldermen on Tuesday night so amended the paper as to eliminate those departments, and then adopted it, 19 to 5. The Council commenced last night in the Board's amendments, the action being final.

Board of Business Men.
The resolution instructs the City Attorney to procure from the next session of the General Assembly certain amendments to the charter of the city providing for the election of the citizens to be known as the administrative board, this board to have exclusive control of all city contracts, the election of all executive officers of the city, and the employment of all labor, and the supervision of all public improvements and the supervision of the management of streets, sewers, parks, public buildings, cemeteries, gas, water and electric works, almshouse and all other public utilities and properties now managed by the fourteen joint stand-

The Council, by the redistricting ordinance already adopted, is reduced from sixty-four to thirty-two members, retains all legislative functions, such as the levying of taxes, the approval of the city charter, the enactment of ordinances, awarding of contracts and all other matters of a purely legislative character, the essence of the plan of the special committee being a complete separation of the legislative and executive functions of the government. The Fire, Police and Health Departments, regarded as guardians of the public safety rather than as administrative features of government, are left to be managed by the boards by boards elected by the Council.

Final Plan From Chamber.

A strong series of resolutions adopted by the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce at a special



John J. Lynch.

CHAMBER UPHOLDS FRANCE'S ACTION

Vote Declares Country Was Not Worst in Moroccan Negotiations

VOTE IS OVERWHELMING

Conservatives Seek to Postpone Ratification of Franco-German Accord

Paris, December 14.—The German, British, Russian and Spanish ambassadors were present in the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon when Foreign Minister De Selves, before a crowded house, delivered France's contribution to the German-British debate and made some additions to the revelations concerning the Moroccan crisis.

Among other things, M. De Selves said that Germany, at the outset of the crisis, had asserted that she would not accept or abide by a new Algeiras conference as a means of settling the Moroccan question.

This discussion drew an interpellation by the Comptroller De Mun and other Conservatives, who wished an official ratification of the Franco-German accord in regard to Morocco until negotiations now going on with Spain are concluded. Count De Mun condemned the sacrifice to a rival power of part of a country which was equal in extent to two-thirds of France and which had cost the spilling of French blood. He condemned the making of secret treaties as a method of diplomacy, and wanted to know where France had been heading since forty years. The world, he said, was not Europe in a more menacing condition. He had no doubt that he did not dream of a dangerous Utopia, involving the substitution of the friendship of England by the friendship of

France Not Worsted,
M. De Selves, in opposing the motion to postpone ratification of the Franco-German agreement, traced the negotiation to the beginning of the crisis. He said the beginning of the crisis itself admitted that there had been a moment of tension, due to the excessive demands of Germany. Reasonable negotiations ensue upon this, and M. De Selves denied that Germany had been so easily defeated and had tried to start a conflict. In his hand, her attitude had been conciliatory, her interests had been constantly guarded, while the dignity and calm of public opinion in France had revealed the force of French patriotism.

M. De Selves then defended the Franco-German accord, saying that the result realized that France had emerged from the negotiations far from weakened. However, he said, the chief advantage of the agreement is that it frees foreign politics from the Moroccan question, which has been a perma-

It will be filled with attractive holiday art and literary features.

Full page drawing in colors, "A Colonial Christmas Party," by Lydia Floreth, with verses by Peter H.

"Full page, drawing in colors, 'Merry Christmas via Wireless,' by Frederick B. Kulz.
"Your Christmas Dinner," as prepared by Dr. Wiley.
"Beautiful Legends of the Christmas Greens," with drawings in black and white.

A Record of Brilliant Men who have died during the year.
 "The Great Man's Primer," penned by Wallace Irwin, with pictures by E. W. Kemble.
 The Early Life of Edgar Allan Poe in Richmond. The first of a series by Philip Alexander Bruce.
 Dickens's Most Tragic Character—one of J. W. Muller's Half-Hour Popular Lectures.
 Our Presidents' Religious Preferences. One of a series written by George H. Picard.
 Odd and Comic Things the World has Seen in 1911.
 "Convicts' Christmas—What Virginia Does and Fails to Do for the Men in Stripes."

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meeting held at noon yesterday, were read to the Council" most earnestly.